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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

January 2012

COMING EVENTS AT LOBRANO HOUSE

The monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2012, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House. Guest speaker for the program will be Jimmie Ladner, Hancock County Tax Collector/Assessor. *Reservations are required* and may be made by calling 467-4090. Please call *by noon on Wednesday, January 18*, to make your reservation, to help us plan seating which is limited to forty-eight people, and to apprise us of the number for whom to prepare. The price of the lunch is \$10.00.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The 2012 Membership Drive is on! It's time for current members to renew their membership in the Historical Society and to encourage family and friends to join us too. The price of membership is twenty-five (\$25) per year. The date on your address label is your date of membership expiration. If your label says 12/11 or before, it's time to renew! Please mail your renewal checks to Hancock County Historical Society, P. O. Box 3356, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521,



C.C.C. CO. NO. 1484—CAMP P-52-KILN, MS., MAR. 1934
(The full photograph is available for view at the Historical Society.)

The Civilian Conservation Corps

By
Eddie Coleman

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was established on March 31, 1933, as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" under the name Emergency Conservation Work Act of 1933 (ECW). Its aim was to provide jobs for young single men between eighteen and twenty-eight years old, but special provisions were

placed in the act for veterans. The enlistment for each volunteer in this peacetime army ran for six months; however, re-enlistment was possible after this initial period. Within three months of its establishment, the CCC volunteers numbered 270,000 working in 1330 camps.

The idea of such a conservation corps was not original with Roosevelt and was not even an idea with U. S. origins. "In 1850 the Scottish essayist Thomas Carlyle wrote that unemployed men should be organized into regiments to drain bogs and work in wilderness areas for the betterment of Society." In the United States in 1910, William James, Har-

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Marianne Pluim, Webmaster**LOBRANO HOUSE
HOURS**MONDAY — FRIDAY
10:00AM — 3:00PM
Closed: 12:00—1:00 (lunch)**MISSION STATEMENT**

“TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION.”

vard philosopher, suggested that young men be drafted to work in environmental programs rather than in the military—the one to substitute for the other. In 1915 George H. Maxwell suggested much the same thing as Thomas Carlyle with the inclusion of fighting forest fires and floods.

With national unemployment at over twenty-five percent in 1932 and with thirty percent of the employed working at part-time jobs, the country seemed ready for President Roosevelt's bill. In addition, another impetus for the establishment of such a program came in 1932 when the Society of American Foresters put forth and supported a program for conservation of national and state parks.

Initially, the US Congress wrote only one requirement into the Emergency Conservation Act of 1933. It was that all applicants must be US citizens. However, in implementing the act, three others were included. The applicants had to be unmarried men—white, black, Native American, Latino—between eighteen and twenty-six years old in sound physical health. Additionally, camps were to be established in all states and U. S. Territories.

The director of ECW was Robert Fechner. Four departments—Labor, Agriculture, Interior, and the Army—worked together to establish and operate the camps. Labor helped select the enrollees and provided their work standards, and the Army ran the camps. The US Forest Service from the Dept. of Agriculture and the National Park Service from the Dept. of the Interior were the technical advisors since most of the work was done on their land.

To prepare the young men for the extensive manual labor required of them, preliminary condi-

tioning camps were established to evaluate the health and condition of the volunteers. Each young man was given good food, exercise, and lessons on physical hygiene and medical care.

Yet, it was soon discovered that physical training alone was not enough; many of the young men needed educational training. Even though provisions for education were not included in the original ECW Act, by 1934 such provisions were included and provided at each camp. In addition to basic skills such as reading and writing, vocational training in truck driving, mechanics, cooking, carpentry, masonry, forestry, and other related vocations was provided as camp personnel and the neighboring communities could provide. Further, college level classes were also available. However, all of these classes were conducted *after* the work day—in the late afternoons or evenings and anywhere one “could find a chair, blanket, or tree stump.”

Much of the work done by the men of the CCC was in soil and forestry conservation. Volunteers helped with disease and insect control and with building more than 3,470 fire towers and 97,000 miles of fire roads. In addition they built drainage systems for more than 84,400,000 acres of farmland. They also planted more than three billion trees. In another vein, they built campgrounds with picnic shelters, swimming pools, fireplaces, and restrooms. Most of the state parks we have today owe their beginnings to the CCC.

The young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps did not become wealthy because of their efforts. For their work they were paid thirty dollars per month. Of this amount twenty-five dollars was automatically sent home for the families of the men.



Civilian Conservation Corps members planting trees in one of the western states as part of a reforestation project and soil conservation

The Civilian Conservation Camps had one of five designations: state park camps (SP); military park camps (MP); park camps (P); soil conservation service camps (SCS); and forestry camps (F). The camp located in Hancock County was Company 1484 at Camp P-52. It was located fifteen miles north of Bay St. Louis in the Kiln area.

The Civilian Conservation Corps received great support from the general public, and for seven years or so was instrumental in providing jobs for thousands of young men. Nonetheless with the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the need for the CCC came to an end. Most of the men enrolled in the program enlisted in the military or were drafted into military service. The CCC program had fulfilled its mission to put young American men to work and in doing so helped prepare them for many of the challenges they would face in war.

SOURCES:

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). 28 Nov. 2011 <www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1586.html>.

Civilian Conservation Corps. 14 Dec. 2011 <www.ccclegacy.org>.

"Civilian Conservation Corps Materials in the National Park Service History Collection." *National Park Service History Collection RG4.* 2006. 15 Dec. 2011 <www.nps.gov/hfc/products/library/ccc.htm>.

Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service, 1933—1942: An Administrative History. 4 April 2000. 14 Dec. 2011 <www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/ccc/ccc1.htm>.

Morris, Gene. "Re: CCC Records." E-mail to Katharine T. Ohman forwarded to Hancock County Historical Society. 12 Mar. 2011.

The Labat Project

The University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippi Humanities Council, and Lori K. Gordon have announced the presentation of "The Labat Project." The exhibit will become available for public viewing for the first time at 5:30 P. M. on Monday, February 6, 2012, at the Bay St. Louis branch of the Hancock County Public Library System, where it will remain until March 31, 2012.

The project is the second phase of an undertaking that was begun by Gordon in 2000, when she conducted an oral history with Celestine Labat (1898-2002) of Bay St. Louis. In 2011 she teamed with the University of Southern Mississippi to create a traveling exhibit encompassing portions of Ms. Labat's oral history and images from the Labat family archives. The exhibit will travel to four locations statewide in 2012. For more information, log on to <http://thelabatproject.blogspot.com> or e-mail Gordon at lorikgordon@gmail.com.

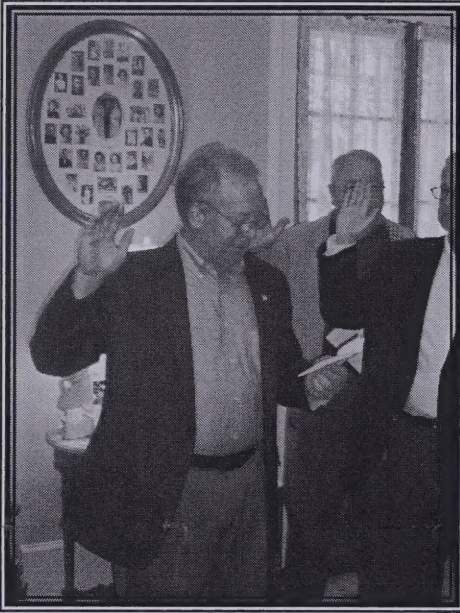
The Installation of the 2012 Board of Directors

The annual Christmas Tea with the installation of the 2012 Board of Directors was held on Thursday afternoon, December 8, from 3:00—5:00 P. M. at Maxwell House, the home of Executive director, Charles Gray. Charles, and of course Maxwell, invited guests to tour the newly renovated and restored 1870 home furnished with early 19th century antiques.

After he gave a few brief remarks, Charles introduced Les Fillingame, Mayor of Bay St. Louis, who presided over the swearing in of the new Board of Directors.



Serving on the 2012 board are Louis Fuchs, president; Ames Kergosien, first-vice president; Pat Fuchs, second-vice president; Scott Bagley, treasurer; Beth Weidlich, secretary; Jackie Allain, publicity chairperson; and Betty Krieger, historian. Because of illness Ellis Cuevas, board member at large, was unable to attend.



Les Fillingame, Mayor of Bay St. Louis, administered the oath of office to the new board members.

NEW MEMBERS

Charles Bartell
Bay St. Louis, MS

Sally Boulay
Long Beach, MS

Terry Firsching
Cloudbcroft, NM

Mark Isaacs,
Bay St. Louis, MS

Bill and Ann Kearney
Bay St. Louis, MS



2012 Board of Directors

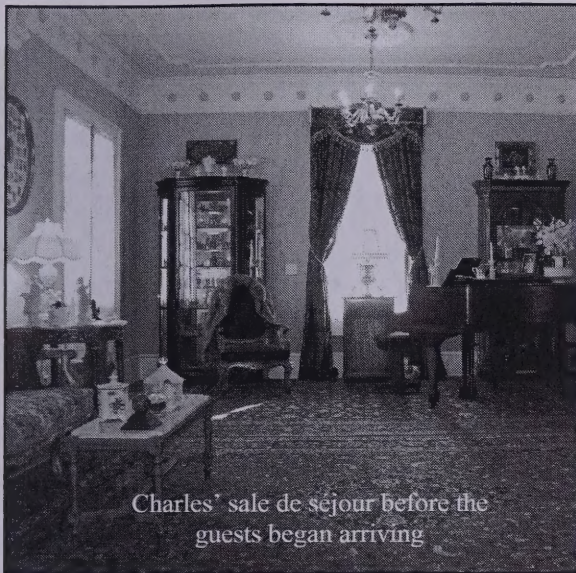
Pictured (back row) L to R —Ames Kergosien, first vice-president; Beth Weidlich, secretary; Charles Gray, executive director; Louis Fuchs, president; Pat Fuchs, second vice-president; (front row) L to R —Scott Bagley, treasurer; Jackie Allain, publicity chairperson; Betty Krieger, historian



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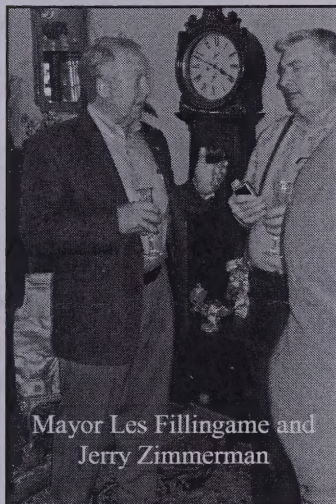
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Charles' sale de séjour before the
guests began arriving

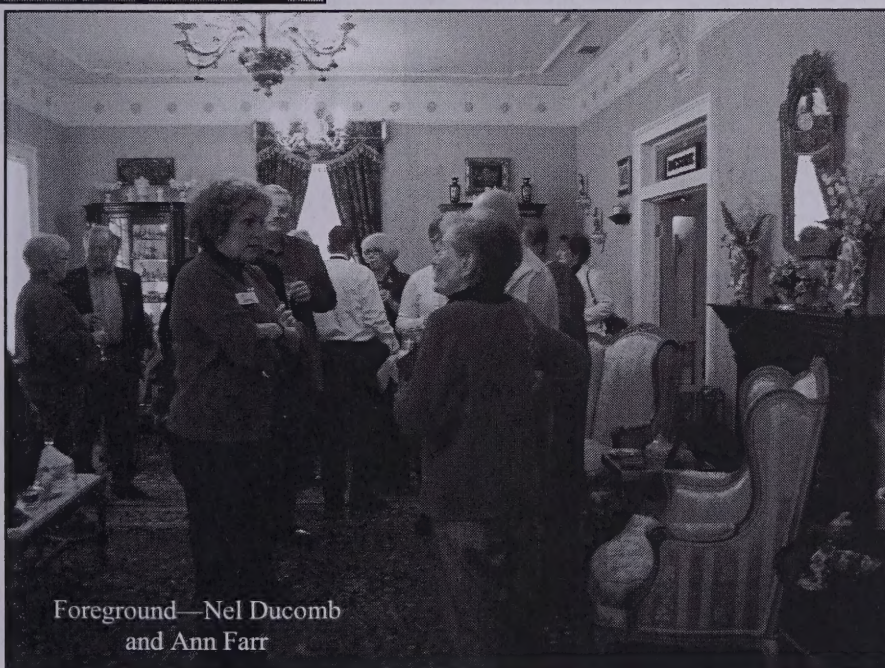
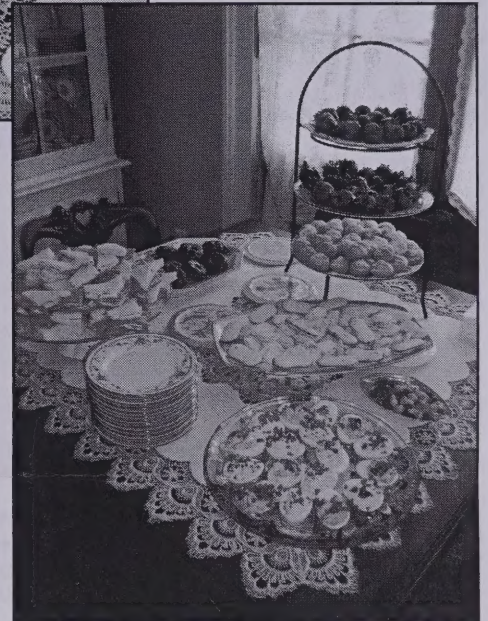


LOTS OF
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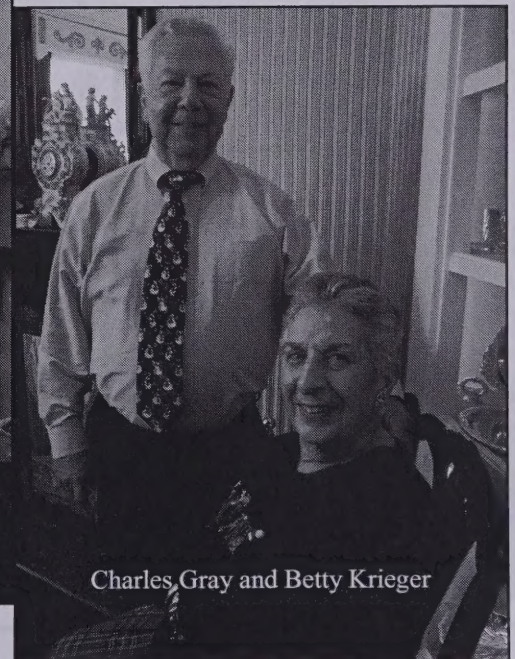


Mayor Les Fillingame and
Jerry Zimmerman

INSTALLATION OF
2012 BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
AT
MAXWELL'S HOUSE



Foreground—Nel Ducomb
and Ann Farr



Charles Gray and Betty Krieger



Everybody had a good time.



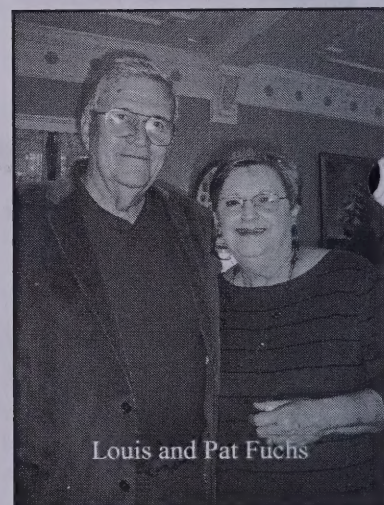
Listening to Charles' opening remarks



Mary Zimmerman arrived by wheelchair.



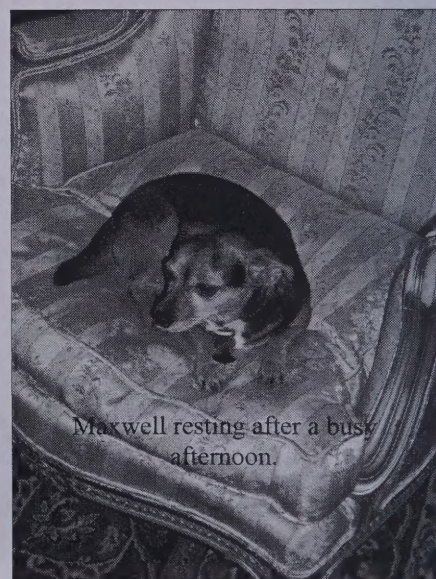
Shawn Pyschitko, Dot Kersanac, and Jackie Allain



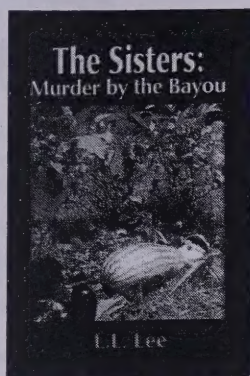
Louis and Pat Fuchs



Everybody enjoyed the good food.



Maxwell resting after a busy afternoon.



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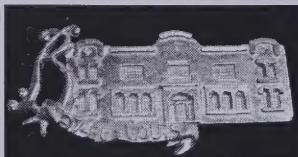


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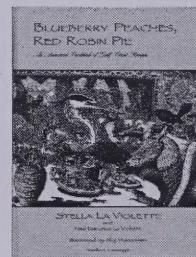


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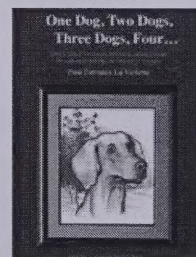
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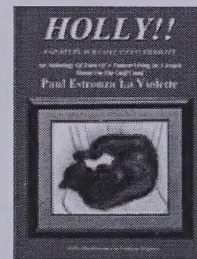
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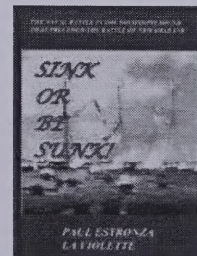
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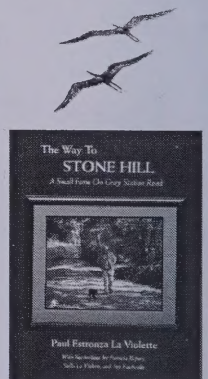
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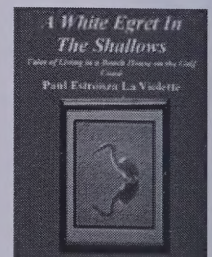
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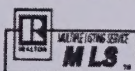
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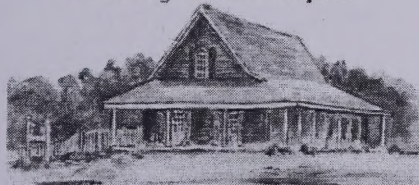


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